Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Monica Simon

DATE: December 14, 2001

RE: Regional Variation in Test Performance

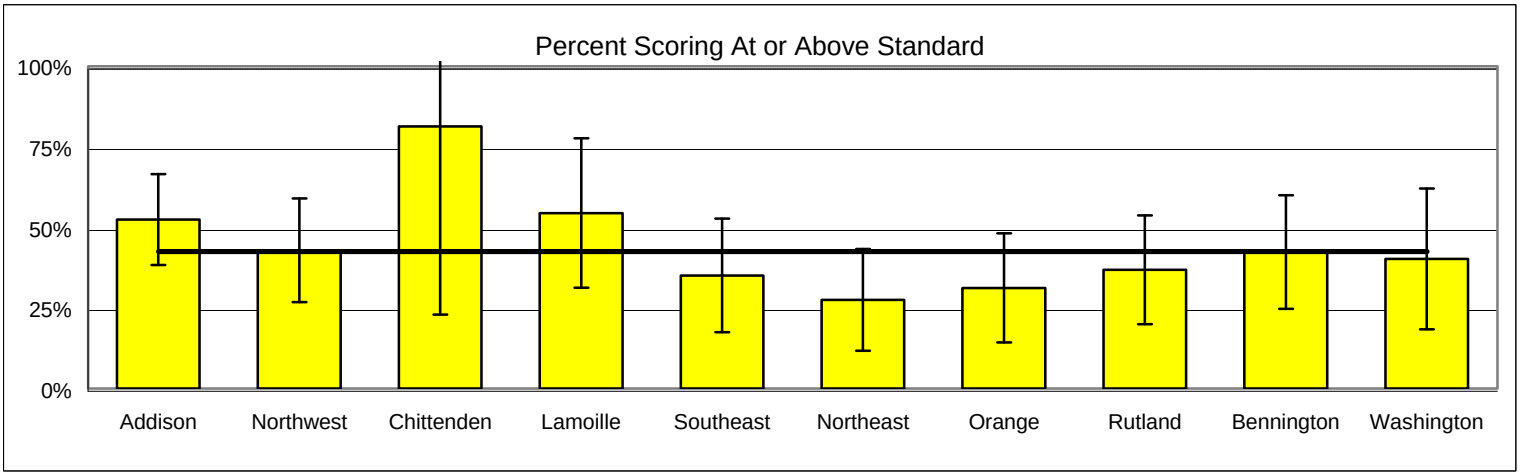
On September 28, (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2001/pip092801.pdf) we distributed the results of our examination of variation in school participation rates for young people who were served by each of Vermont's ten regional community-based children's mental health programs. This week we are distributing the results of examination of variation in school performance for young people who were served by each of these programs. As in the analysis distributed on October 19, (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2001/pip101901.pdf), our measure of school performance is the proportion of the young people who performed at or above grade level on the Mathematics Skills Assessment during the year in which services were received. The attached graph and tables present the results of this analysis.

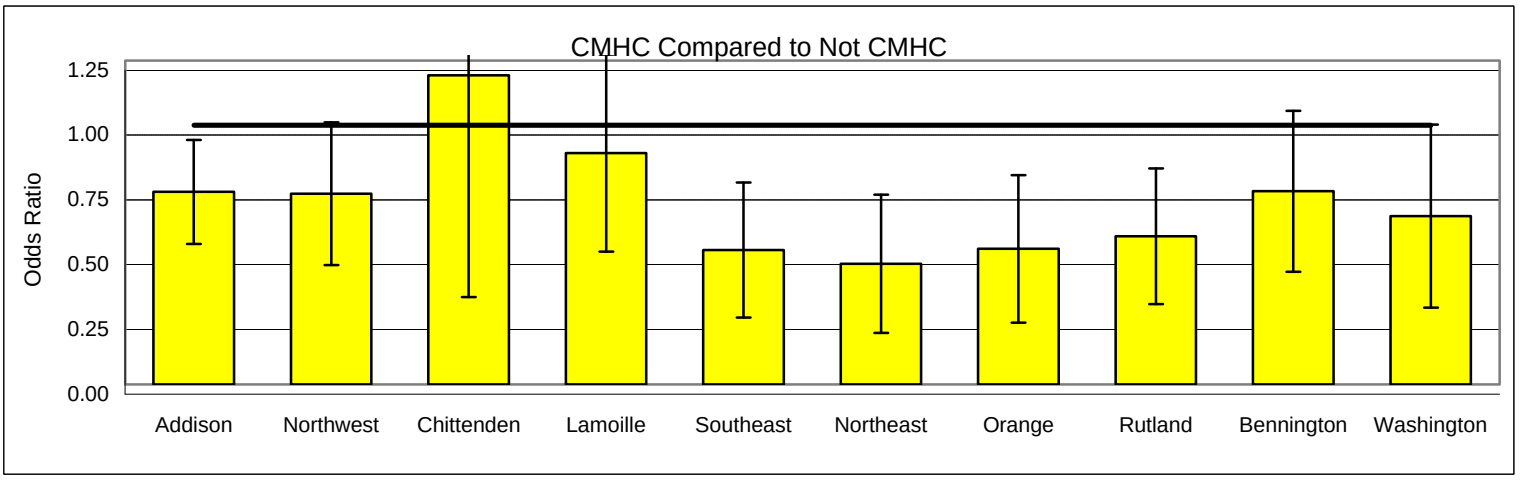
As you will see, young people who were served by community mental health programs were less likely to score at or above standard than other students when the results are viewed on a statewide basis. Overall, 42% of CMHC clients scored at or above the standard, compared to 64% of students not served by a CMHC. The rate at which mental health service recipients scored at or above the standard varied from 81% in Chittenden County to 31% in Orange County. No regions, however, were significantly different from the statewide rate.

In order to more fairly compare the school performance of young people served by community mental health programs in different parts of the state, the school performance of mental health service recipients was compared to the performance of other children from the same region of the state. The proportion of service recipients who scored at or above the standard was similar to the proportion of other students who scored at or above the standard in five regions of the state. The differences between the CMHC service recipients and other students in these regions was not statistically significant.

We will be very interested in your interpretation of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis. Please address your comments and/or questions to jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or call John Pandiani at 802-241-2638.

Performance in Statewide Mathematics Skills Assessment
Young People Served by Community Mental Health Centers and Other Young People
1998 - 2000





	Number Tested		Scoring At or Above Standard		
	Served by CMHC	Not Served by CMHC	Served by CMHC	Not Served by CMHC	Odds Ratio
State	867 ± 72	19,431 ± 72	42% ± 8%	64% ± 0.4%	0.66 ± 0.12
Addison	82 ± 11	969 ± 11	52% ± 14%	71% ± 1%	0.74 ± 0.20
Northwest	74 ± 12	1,572 ± 12	43% ± 16%	58% ± 1%	0.74 ± 0.28
Chittenden	95 ± 52	4,366 ± 52	81% ± 58%	68% ± 1%	1.19 ± 0.86
Lamoille	19 ± 5	775 ± 5	54% ± 23%	61% ± 1%	0.89 ± 0.38
Southeast	185 ± 32	3,080 ± 32	35% ± 18%	68% ± 1%	0.52 ± 0.26
Northeast	130 ± 22	1,900 ± 22	28% ± 16%	59% ± 1%	0.47 ± 0.27
Orange	65 ± 12	1,273 ± 12	31% ± 17%	60% ± 1%	0.52 ± 0.28
Rutland	100 ± 17	2,161 ± 17	37% ± 17%	64% ± 1%	0.57 ± 0.26
Bennington	50 ± 10	1,099 ± 10	42% ± 18%	57% ± 1%	0.75 ± 0.31
Washington	68 ± 16	2,236 ± 16	40% ± 22%	62% ± 1%	0.65 ± 0.35

The Odds Ratio is the likelihood of CMHC clients to score at or above standard as compared to individuals who are not CMHC clients. An odds ratio of 1 indicates no difference in the proportion of young people scoring at or above the standard. An odds ratio less than 1 indicates young people served by a CMHC are less likely to score at or above standard.

Analysis is based on Monthly Service Reports provided to DDMHS by the community mental health centers and data provided by the Department of Education. The Analysis includes individuals who were tested on grade level or one year later.

Because these data do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to provide unduplicated counts of individuals shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).